

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/780,503	SETHI ET AL.
	Examiner Louise N. Leary	Art Unit 1654

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. This communication is responsive to amendment filed 11-24-2003.
2. The allowed claim(s) is/are 1 and 3-20.
3. The drawings filed on _____ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) All b) Some* c) None of the:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

5. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 - (a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. CORRECTED DRAWINGS must be submitted.
 - (a) including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) hereto or 2) to Paper No. 19.
 - (b) including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed _____, which has been approved by the Examiner.
 - (c) including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. _____.

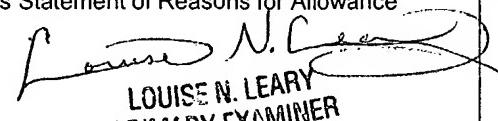
Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet.

9. DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449), Paper No. _____.
- Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

- Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. _____.
- Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- Other



LOUISE N. LEARY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The reasons for allowance of the claims is that none of the prior art of record disclose or suggest a method for diagnosis of bacterial exacerbations of chronic lung disease in an individual comprising the steps of

a) obtaining a sputum sample from the individual, wherein the sample comprises lower respiratory tract secretions;

b) determining the level of elastase in the sputum sample by contacting the sputum sample with a chromogenic substrate of elastase; and

c) comparing the level of elastase in the sample to a reference standard, wherein an increase in the elastase level over the reference standard is indicative of bacterial induced exacerbations of chronic lung disease; nor a method for diagnosis of bacterial exacerbations of chronic lung disease in an individual comprising the steps of

a) obtaining a sputum sample from the individual, wherein the sample comprises lower respiratory tract secretions;

b) determining the presence or absence of elastase in the sputum sample by contacting the sputum sample with an absorbent carrier coated with a chromogenic substrate therefor, wherein a change in color of the absorbent carrier is indicative of bacterial induced exacerbations of chronic lung disease as claimed in the present invention.

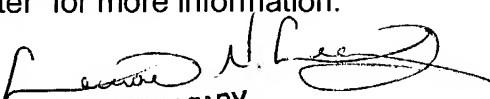
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Louise N. Leary whose telephone number is (703) 308-3533. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday to Friday from 10 to 6:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Brenda Brumback, can be reached on (703) 306-3220. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1235.

For 24 hour access to patent application information, 7 days a week, or for filing patent applications electronically, please visit our website at www.uspto.gov and click on the button "Patent Electronic Business Center" for more information.



LOUISE N. LEARY
PRIMARY EXAMINER

January 6, 2004